(q) Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(r) In consonance with the policy of providing a complete package of welfare services to the physically, mentally, hearing and visually handicapped individuals and groups and in order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the Ministry of SJ & E has established six national/Apex Institutes, each working in a specific area of disability. These institutes are apex-level organisations in the field of education, training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation and development of suitable service modules for the disabled.

(s) The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), Kanpur was established in November, 1972 as a Public Sector Company with the main objective of developing and manufacturing standard aids and appliances for the disabled persons and to make them available at reasonable prices to them throughout India. It manufactures wheel chairs, tricycle, artificial limbs, crutches and may other aids and appliances for the handicapped persons.

(t) The District Rehabilitation centre Scheme (DRC) was initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during 1985 to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled right at their door step in 11 districts of the country. Four Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres (RRTCs) have also been set up at Chennai, Mumbai, Cuttack and Lucknow for training and manpower development in the field of rehabilitation, particularly for the DRCs.

Scheme to Abolish Scavenging

†1932. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any scheme to abolish the practice of scavenging by the end of 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the person/families benefited under this scheme, so far;

(d) whether Government have achieved success in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Urban Development is implementing a Scheme of Conversion of Dry Latrines into Wet Latrines which inter-alia aims at abolition of scavenging. Besides, this Ministry is also implementing National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents which seeks to train & rehabilitate them in alternate occupations.

(b) Statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) So far 1,27,364 scavengers have been trained and 2,90,308 scavengers have been rehabilitated under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents;

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and Their Dependents (NSIRS)

Objective and Background

The objective of the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents is to liberate them from the hereditary and inhuman occupation of Manually removing night soil and filth and to provide for and engage them in alternative and dignified occupations. With this objective in view, the Government of India launched the Scheme in March, 1992, after splitting the erstwhile scheme of conversion of dry of latrines and rehabilitation of liberated scavengers that was started in 1980-81.

Main Components of the Scheme

(a) *Survey*—Time bound programme for identification of scavengers and their dependents and their aptitude for alternative trade through a survey.

(b) *Training*—Scheme provides for training of scavengers in the age group of 15 to 50 years in the training institutes of Central Government, State Governments, Local Bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations on TRYSEM norms. The training period should be for a maximum duration of 6 months. The stipend provided for training, ranges from Rs. 200/- to Rs. 500/- depending upon the training institute chosen and similar higher rates for training centres, cost of raw materials, allowance for tool kits, etc. The full cost of training is borne by government of India.

(c) *Rehabilitation*—Rehabilitation of Scavengers is attempted through sanction of projects costing upto Rs. 50,000/- for each beneficiary funded by a prescribed financial package comprising of 50% subsidy subject to a ceiling of Rs. 10,000/- per project, 15% of project cost as Margin Money Loan (MML) which is shared between the Central Government and State Governments in the ratio of 49:51, and the rest through bank loan. Thus, for a project costing Rs. 50,000/- the following shall be the financial break-up:

Subsidy	Rs. 10,000/-
MML	Rs. 7,500/-
Bank Loan	Rs. 32,500/-

The entire cost of subsidy is borne by Government of India. MML is provided by the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporation at a concessional rate of interest of 4%. The loan component is to be provided by banks under their priority sector lending.

Implementing Agencies

At the grass root level the implementation of the Scheme is handled by the State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations. The National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) has been signed the responsibility of monitoring of the scheme as well as the task of coordination and collaboration with the SCDCs in implementing the scheme.

Implementation of Guidelines of SC/ST Commission

1933. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some PSUs/Banks/Financial Institutions and KVS are